

**SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER  
MINUTES**

Members present: Mr. Sean Clough, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, Mrs. Rose Marie Cipriano, and Mr. Brent Barrows. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Director of Special Education, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Director of Financial Operations, Benjamin Scungio, Esq. School Committee/School Department Attorney, and Ryan Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Clough called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mr. Clough read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification, notified the public of the public comment sign-up sheet, and reminded the public to speak at the podium when addressing the Committee.
2. Mrs. Cipriano moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:
  - 2.1 Minutes of the July 13, 2015 School Committee Meeting
  - 2.2 Bills
    - A) Regular Bills
    - B) Prepaid Checks from July 13, 2015 through July 31, 2015
    - C) Lunch Bills
  - 2.3 Resignations
    - A) Laurie Ratigan, Principal, William Winsor Elementary School, effective August 10, 2015.
    - B) Domenica Barsoian, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, High School, effective immediately.
    - C) Mary Lurgio, Grade 4 Teacher, OCRS, effective July 31, 2015.
  - 2.4 Appointments
    - A) Rosemarie Cabral, .5 Special Education Teacher/Special Education Department Chair, High School, for the 2015-2016 School Year.
    - B) Michael Murray, .5 French teacher, Gallagher Middle School, for the 2015-2016 School Year.
    - C) June Mangassarian, District .5 English Language Learner teacher, for the 2015-2016 School Year.
    - D) Jared Santucci, English teacher, Gallagher Middle School, One-year only for the 2015-2016 School Year.
    - E) Benjamin Alix, Maintenance, second shift, pending successful BCI check and physical, effective August 17, 2015.
    - F) Sandra Barrette, Elementary Music teacher, for the 2015-2016 school year.
    - G) Lindsay Burrows, Elementary Art teacher, for the 2015-2016 school year.  
Mrs. Barrette and Ms. Burrows were present at the meeting. Mr. O'Brien and the Committee congratulated them.

2.5 Homeschooling:

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Parent(s) or Guardian</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Bastajian, Roupen	Mr. & Mrs. Roupen Bastajian	GMS	7
Bastajian, Sela	Mr. & Mrs. Roupen Bastajian	GMS	6
Camara, Dylan	Ms. Margaret Camara	OCRS	4
Camara, Elias	Ms. Margaret Camara	OCRS	2
Martin, Samuel	Mrs. Grace Martin	GMS	8
Mendez, Mizael	Mr. & Mrs. Misael Mendez	SHS	9
Mendez, Kaleb	Mr. & Mrs. Misael Mendez	GMS	7
Mendez, Javeer	Mr. & Mrs. Misael Mendez	Winsor	2
Mendez, Jonah Rex	Mr. & Mrs. Misael Mendez	Winsor	K
Miller, Samuel	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Miller	SHS	12
Roberts, Ariel	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Roberts	GMS	7
Strathmann, Hayden	Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Strathmann	OCRS	4
Strathmann, Evalyn	Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Strathmann	GMS	7
Tomka, Edie	Mr. & Mrs. Derek Tomka	GMS	7
Tomka, Boden	Mr. & Mrs. Derek Tomka	LaPerche	5
Tomka, Greta	Mr. & Mrs. Derek Tomka	LaPerche	2

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

**3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student representative Ryan Strik reported:

- Fall sports at the High School and Middle School have begun.
- Senior pictures have been taking place over the last several weeks and fashion show preparation for the class of 2016 has begun.
- Freshman Orientation will be on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 pm.

4. Mr. Glenn Ahlborg was present to give an update on the various school construction projects, and answer questions that the Committee had. Mr. Ahlborg passed out photos and reviewed the progression by sections for the High School, Middle School, and LaPerche Elementary. Mr. Ahlborg also reviewed the expected completion dates on the various projects and addressed questions in regards to the roof and chimney work at the high school.
5. The Committee discussed the removal, cleaning, and replacement of acoustical ceiling tile at the High School. The scope of work for this project that will cost about \$518,000, had been sent to Committee members for review prior to the school committee meeting. There was a discussion on the issue of cost and the necessity for the change work order. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that he was told in a recent conversation with Joe DaSilva from RIDE that the bond specifically spells out what the money can be utilized for. Mr. O'Brien added that RIDE will only allow this type of project to be done if there is an emergency need of health and safety concerns. Mr. Ahlborg addressed questions of the necessity of the ceiling tile project for the High School that had been proposed as an additional scope of work from a member of the public. Mr. Ahlborg added that a visual inspection of the ceiling tiles did not show any signs of mold, so without evidence to warrant mold or mildew an air quality test should be performed to be sure. There was also a discussion on if there is a need to remove, clean and replace tiles at the middle school and administration office as well. Mr. Ahlborg concluded that because of time constraints, if there is a

need for the removal, cleaning and replacement of the tiles at the high school, middle school or administration building, it can be done at a later date. Committee members discussed possibly scheduling a future discussion with the town to see if this type of project is something the town would like to do outside of the bond money.

6. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the Committee discuss and act upon adding a grade one classroom to LaPerche Elementary School. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that although there is no money in the budget for the addition of a grade one classroom teacher, as a result of the high number of enrollments any money saved for an emergency situation would have to be utilized to hire a teacher for grade one. The addition of the need for the grade one teacher would be an approximate \$70,000 increase to the current deficit of \$375,000. Mr. O'Brien reviewed the elementary enrollment numbers and pointed out that grade five at all schools is nearing capacity as well. He said he originally budgeted for an extra fifth grade class, however, that money had to be used elsewhere for unexpected costs. Mr. O'Brien noted some issues that will have an effect on the budget that included receiving less revenue from the state, an increase in private school book loan costs, and an increase in insurance. There was discussion on the current \$445,000 structural deficit going into next year's budget as a result of all cost increases and just maintaining current services. The Committee was in agreement that the school committee needs to have early communications with the town council to explain the school department's financial status and to prevent further budgetary issues.

Public comment: Jamie DiLorenzo and Justine Sands

7. Mrs. Cipriano moved that the proposed Aramark contract language be discussed and approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. Scungio gave an explanation of what the contract language means in regards to a guarantee, and how the clause in the contract could cause tax-exempt bonds purchased by investors for school department projects to become taxable. He said to avoid the situation, he is suggesting that school committees remove the language from the contract, and in the future negotiate with different terms after this contract ends. Mrs. Cournoyer added that profit guarantees will remain in the fund, they just will not be written guarantees as part of the contract. Gen Ciullo and John McGrath were present to answer questions that the Committee had.
8. Mrs. Harnois moved that the purchase of an 800 amp electrical panel for LaPerche Elementary School at a cost of \$4,131.99 be approved. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that as part of the faulty main aluminum conductor, Izzo Electric has completed the installation of new copper conductors from the service pole to the main panel on July 16, 2015. All of the service work was done in conjunction with National Grid who was responsible for the installation of a new service pole and (3) new transformers. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that an emergency purchase of the panel was made because the panel had to be installed when National Grid cut power to the school and the underground cables were being replaced. He said Angelo received three quotes for the panel. The new electrical panel will insure a properly balanced electrical load to the building.
9. The district's electrician Tony Rodrigues was recognized for his instrumental role with not only working with Izzo Electric and National Grid, but also bringing to Angelo's attention that the service panel was outdated and needed to be replaced. Mr. Mencucci explained that Mr. Rodrigues installed the new 800 amp service and performed all of the prep and installation

associated with this project. Mr. O'Brien said this was an approximate \$25,000-\$30,000 cost savings to the district. Mr. Rodrigues was present and the Committee congratulated him.

10. Mrs. Heenan moved that the purchase of a used lawn mower for \$4,000 from capital be approved. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the used mower was purchased as emergency in order to prepare for fall sports that begin in August. Mr. O'Brien said Angelo had received three quotes for a new mower as well as a used mower. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the school department had only one John Deere riding tractor that is operational. He said this size machine could not keep up with the amount of mowing that is the responsibility of the School Department. Mr. Mencucci explained the rational of purchasing a used mower as opposed to a new mower. He said the old Scag mower had been given to the town to be used as parts.
11. Mr. Barrows moved that the updates to the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements policy be approved. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that language requiring the state requirement of a personal finance class has been added to the policy. The Class of 2019 handbook will be updated to reflect this change as well. Mr. Hassell was present to answer questions that the Committee had and to clarify the policy requirements.
12. The Committee did a first reading of the district's dual enrollment policy. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee the policy has been reviewed by our Attorney. Mr. Hassell was present to answer questions from the Committee. Suggested changed made by Committee members will be added and the policy will be brought back to the next school committee meeting for a second reading and approval.
13. Mrs. Heenan moved that the revised Resident/Nonresident pupil policy be approved. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the policy had been reviewed by our Attorney, however, he would like to suggest some clauses in regards to reduced tuitions extended as a professional courtesy to employees with out of district students. Mr. O'Brien will incorporate language that he researched from other districts and integrate the language into the policy. Mrs. Heenan and Mrs. Harnois withdrew their motions. Mrs. Heenan moved to table the revised Resident/Nonresident pupil policy to the next school committee meeting. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Suggestions will be incorporated into the policy and the policy will be brought back for a second reading and approval at the next school committee meeting.
14. Mrs. Harnois moved that the bid for boiler cleaning be awarded to Industrial Burner Services, Inc. at a price of \$21,000. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that two bids were received, Industrial Burner Services, Inc. was the lowest responsive bidder.
15. Mrs. Harnois moved that the bid for #2 heating oil bid be awarded to Peterson Oil Service, Inc. at the incremental price of \$.0240 per gallon. Mr. Barrows seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee two bids were received. Peterson Oil Service, Inc. was the lowest bidder. Mr. O'Brien reminded the Committee of past problems with deliveries and issues that he had to address but were resolved with Peterson Oil. There was discussion on the amount that the second lowest bidder came in at and the cost difference. Mrs. Cournoyer told the Committee that the second bid was an incremental price of \$.0929 per gallon.

16. Mr. Barrows moved that the bid for bonded keyed cylinders be awarded to New England School Services, Inc. at a total price of \$15,367. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that one bid was received. The bid was reviewed by Mr. Mencucci and Mrs. Cournoyer. Mrs. Cournoyer added that the bid came in at \$867 over the budgeted amount. Mr. Mencucci answered questions from the Committee. He said this was the only bid received, however other vendors participated in the tour, but did not complete the bidding process. Mr. Mencucci told the Committee that New England School Services is the same company that installed the locks throughout the high school, and he was confident the company will perform to the School Department's standards.
17. Mrs. Harnois moved that the bid for the commercial washer and dryer be awarded to Daniels Equipment Company, Inc. at a total price of \$10,950. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that one bid was received. The bid was reviewed by Mr. Mencucci and Mrs. Cournoyer. Mrs. Cournoyer said this was \$1,375 over budget. Mr. Mencucci answered questions that Committee members had. Daniels Equipment is the same company that had done numerous amount of repairs to the school department's old appliances. Mr. Mencucci said these are quality machines and he believed this was a competitive price.
18. Mr. Barrows moved that the bid for fire-rated doors and hardware at RC LaPerche Elementary School be awarded to New England School Services, Inc. at a total price of \$21,664. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Two bids were received. The bids were reviewed by Mr. Mencucci and Mrs. Cournoyer. Mrs. Cournoyer added that this was \$1,180 over the budgeted amount.
19. Mrs. Heenan moved that the bid for a 2015 or 2016 pick-up truck with service body be awarded to Flood Ford of East Greenwich at a total price of \$39,988. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that three bids were received. The bids were reviewed by Mr. Mencucci and Mrs. Cournoyer. Mrs. Cournoyer added that this was \$4,912 under budget. Mr. Mencucci explained the need for the truck to the Committee.
20. Mrs. Harnois moved that the bid for snow blower attachments be awarded to Howard Johnson, Inc. at total price of \$2,750. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that two bids were received. The bids were reviewed by Mr. Mencucci and Mrs. Cournoyer. Mrs. Cournoyer added that the bid came in \$500 under budget.
21. Mrs. Heenan moved that the Committee authorize the re-bidding of the repairs to the Trane RTU at Gallagher Middle School. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that one bid was received. He said the bid price came in at \$33,500, which is more than double the price anticipated.
22. Mrs. Heenan moved that the Committee authorize the re-bidding of snow removal. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the snow removal RFP was previously issued but no proposals were received.

## **23. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A) A copy of obsolete equipment transfer information.

**24. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

1. Mr. O'Brien proposed August 12<sup>th</sup> or August 13<sup>th</sup> as possible dates for the Committee to do interviews for the Elementary Principal position. The Committee decided upon August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building for the interviews.
2. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the ADA work at the High School came in higher than we have in the Capital Account. He said the ADA repairs are included in the memorandum of agreement that School Committee members had signed with RIDE. Mr. O'Brien said that after to speaking with Joe DaSilva from RIDE, he will be requesting the ADA repairs be moved from capital to the bond project so that the town will be reimbursed for housing aid.

**25. PUBLIC FORUM:** None.

**26. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** None.

**27. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (Closed) pursuant to RI General Laws Section 42-46-5(a):

At 8:57 p.m. Mr. Barrows moved to convene into Executive Session to session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)1. Collective bargaining (negotiations) in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)2. Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Clough, Chair.

Returned to open session at 9:25 p.m. Motion to adjourn executive session made by Mrs. Harnois; Mrs. Cipriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Cipriano moved to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Cipriano; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Petrone  
Secretary